

November 6, 2012

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Trustee Sheila Taylor  
Re: Board Chair Authorization

To the Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my concern related to authorization of Board actions. Please note this letter is not confidential as it does not refer to any events that are not public.

In general, I am disturbed that Chair Cochrane has been taking actions, including corresponding with outside parties such as the provincial government and authorizing expenses, without first bringing documents to the Board for review. As you know, I also raised concerns about Chair Cochrane's apparent authorization of trustee expense disclosure without Board approval early this fall.

The School Act as well as Board policies are very clear that the Board acts as a unit and that no individual trustee is permitted to authorize a Board action on their own without a formal vote. The Chair of the Board is one trustee with one vote.

To quote GC-2: *"The Board will function as a single unit.... No officer, individual, or committee of the Board will be permitted to limit the Board's performance or prevent the Board from fulfilling its commitments."*

and

GC-4: duty of the Chair to *"Execute all documents authorized by the Board, except as otherwise provided by law"*

In light of these policies, I was surprised to learn recently that Chair Cochrane has been authorizing the expenses of the Chief Superintendent without first bringing those expense documents before the Board. In fact, other than in the Calgary Herald (print/blog), I have never seen the detailed expenses of the Chief Superintendent.

First, I do not believe our policies state that the Board approves expenses. Second, if the Board does indeed approve expenses, I would appreciate clarity as to where that is detailed in policy.

In future, if the Board will be approving expenses of the Chief Superintendent, then those expense forms should come before the whole Board for review and vote prior to the Chair signing.

In summary, the Board approves actions, not individual trustees, and authorizations occur through official recorded votes. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Taylor, Trustee

Cc: Laura Safran-General Council, Naomi Johnson- Chief Superintendent